

REMARKS

Careful consideration has been given to the above identified Official Action, and reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claim 11 has now been twice amended, while claim 12 was amended on October 1, 2002.

The undersigned wishes to express his appreciation to Examiner Nguyen for the courtesy given during the personal interview on December 9, 2003. At that time, Craig Whitehouse, one of the inventors, and David Welkie, an employee of the Assignee, attended the interview.

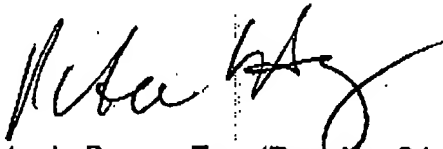
The interview focused on distinguishing the current invention from the Davis reference. The Davis reference has been discussed in great detail in this file, and it fails to show an ion beam having an axis which is parallel to the spaced apart rods. Claim 11 has been amended to re-state such character of the ion beam as well as its parallel relationship to the spaced apart rods. Insofar as such description of the ion beams is consistent with a multipole ion guide having an axis through which ions pass, this Amendment also sets forth substantially inherent structural features.

Claims 11-13 were also rejected as claiming the same invention as US Patent 6,020,586. This rejection is respectfully traversed. First, the claims of the '586 patent require that the ion source be configured external to the pulsing region whereas such limitation is not found in the present claims. Further, the multipole ion guide in the present claims is identified as a two-dimensional multipole ion guide, and that is also not found in the claims of the '586 patent. The present claims further state that the two-dimensional multipole ion guide functions as a two-dimensional ion trap, and that is not found in the claims of '586. The additional amendment relating to the parallel nature of the axis of the ion beam in relationship to the spaced apart rods is also not found in the claims of the '586 patent.

In view of the interview and amendments made hereto, it is respectfully submitted that the current claims as now constituted are patentable.

A three month request for an extension of time is sought herein, and this Amendment is filed as part of a RCE so that a full examination will be made of these claims upon the next review process at the Patent Office.

Respectfully submitted,



Peter L. Berger, Esq. (Reg. No. 24,570)
Levisohn, Berger & Langsam LLP
805 Third Avenue, Suite 2500
New York, New York 10017
(212) 486-7272 (phone)
(212) 486-0323 (fax)
Customer No. 04617

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